76-1944

A YEAR OF INTEGRATION

Age - New York, N.Y.
10-28-44

THE Young Women's Christian Association of Brooklyn has just recently completed one year of integration, during which Ashland Place Y. W. C. A., formerly the building housing all activities of Negro women and girls, was transformed into a residence for Negro girls and all other activities were transferred into the Central Building.

A four-page folder written by Alice S. Onque, secretary for Negro Communities, and entitled "A Year's Experience In Integration", tells of the progress of the experiment. A significant statement on the front of the folder from the National Board Y. W. C. A. keynotes what is taking place: "A world wide struggle for freedom is meaningless unless democracy is made real for all people."

Evidence of the progress of integration is shown in a series of pictures on the inside of the folder toi llustrate how the program is progressing. "On July 1, 1943," the folder says, program facilities of the Central Building were opened to the entire membership. The Ashland Place staff, membership, and program participants moved into the Central Building. Uncertainty and doubt existed in the minds of many people regarding the future of such an unusual experiment. However, there were those who recognized that the change would offer increased opportunities for leadership development and community service. During the past year, in this new pattern of work, there have been periods of discouragement as well as periods of great hope. Gains have been made; and they have been cemented with sound policies, wisdom, and understanding. Brooklyn stands in the national limelight because it has led the way in an experiment in integration in a community which has a large Negro population. A brief sketch of our experiences serves as an inspiration to all and gives great hope for the future."

10-28-44

The pictures show Negro and white women, girls and children working, studying and playing together and engaged in various activities. The only disappointing thing about the report and pamphlet is that it states that the Ashland Place YWCA has been turned into a residence for Negro girls. In the financial campaign which is now in progress, Mrs. Matchie Marshall has been made division leader with both Negro and white captains working under a Negro woman and great results are expected as a result.

10-28-44

Last year, when the Y. W. C. A. of Brooklyn announred that it was embarking on a program of integration, The New York Age editorially expressed the hope that the program would be highly successful. All reports coming from "The City of Churches" seem to indicate that real christianity has made its entry into the Y. W. C. A. in Brooklyn.

We hope that as the program of integration enters its second year, those charged with the responsibility of carrying it out work to eliminate the known flaws of the present program, so that the National Board's statement will become an actuality, not a wish—"A world wide struggle for freedom is meaningless unless democracy is made real for all people."

Regional Conference Has Panal Discussion

Informer - Houston, Texas
6-17-44

DALLAS — In an evening session at the YWCA, the Regional Conference, Region 111 Texas Welfare Association, held a panel, discussing "The Problems of the Returning Veteran in a World of Tomorrow." Ernest Tutt, district Manager Social Board and State Chairman, in his talk said, "The returning veteran deserves all that is due him, that it should not be as it was in the last war, as soon as he is out of uniform that the world forgets the service rendered by him. He believes that there should be an organization so well set up that all the veteran's needs would be taken care of with the least worry to him possible. This he said was the least a city this size could do.

Lt. Commander John M. Nagle, consultant in Psychiatry, said the returning soldier needs faith in God, man, and country. The home front must be prepared to help him with his problems. He asked not to give him pity, but be understanding, be interested, but not overly curious, be ootimistic but realistic, and above all don't believe that the war is over.

6-17-44

Orville Erringer, area Director of War Manpower Organization, dissussed "The Veteran's Employment Bureau" which he said was well organized. One of its functions was to send trained interviewers into the hospitals to find out what the veteran desires and needs in occupation, thus eliminating waste of time.

What The Negro May Expect

It was brought out in the question period what the Negro may expect from these plans. The plans they said were for Negroes as well as white, and there should be no discrimination. It was also learned that no Negroes were on the committees that were doing this planning, neither were they on the United Service Employment Service and other boards to speak for the Negro. One speaker said he thought that the Negro need not be alarmed that the Negro would not want to encroach on the white man's domain. Neither would the white man encroach on the Negro's. Mr. Raider said, "That committee was formed to see that both Negro and white get the same direction given to returning servicemen.

Y.W.C.A. Takes Up Stand for Negroes

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.

ATLANTIC CITY — Full civil rights for Negroes and interracial committees which would be a help in building understanding between the races were suggested by one of the delegates to the Eastern Regional Conference of the Young Women's Christian Association. The suggestions were made by Miss Myra Smith, chief executive of the research department of the national board, at the regional meeting on Monday.

In her report, which will be discussed later at a general convention of the YWCA, Miss Smith presented to the 700 delegates a report of her findings in a study of the Negro problem and her recommendations for steps toward solving it.

5-6-44

Stating that the increasing tension between races must be met, Miss Smith stated that in order to lessen this tension, "the Negro must be included in the stream of life. We urge," she said, "that our attitudes and beliefs be carried into other community organizations, churches, unions and organizations for the advancement of the Negro."

Objects were raised by Miss Smith to the segregation practiced against Negroes in theaters and residential districts. "Where the Negro meets the economic and educational levels of his fellow white citizens he should find no discrimination as to his choice of residence in a community."

OPENING OF NEGRO 'YW' IS PLANNED FOR FEB. 1

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

Apartment Building At 539-43 Vance Is Purchased

10-5-44

Opening of a negro Y. W. C. A. not later than Feb. 1 at 539-43 Vance in an apartment building purchased yesterday, was announced yesterday by "Y" officials.

George Awsumb, architect, will make plans for remodeling the building to provide recreation facilities and some sleeping quarters for transient negro women. At present a negro branch is being conducted in rooms at 462 Vance.

Purchase of the new property was made from Mrs. Casper Papalardo for $12,000. It is a red brick building with four apartment units.

SEEING THE LIGHT

Age - New York, N.Y.

THE Young Women's Christian Association, already a step ahead of the Young Men's Christian Association as far as race relations is concerned, has taken another step forward with presentation of a report to the Eastern regional conference held last week in Atlantic City.

5-6-44

Interracial committees to bridge the gap between Negroes and white persons and full civil rights for Negroes were advocated by Miss Myra Smith, of New York, chief executive of the research department of the national board, Y. W. C. A.

Miss Smith presented to 700 delegates present a report on her findings of a study of the Negro problem and recommendations for steps "toward a common goal to solve it." The report will be discussed later at a general convention of the Y. W. C. A.

5-6-44

"We must try," Miss Smith declared, "to meet the gathering tension between races and lessen that tension. To do this, the Negro must be included in the stream of life. We urge that our attitudes and beliefs be carried into other community organizations, churches, unions and organizations for the advancement of the Negro."

Objecting to segregation of Negroes in theatres, Miss Smith advocated wiping out community borders for Negro settlements in cities, naming New York's Harlem and Atlantic City's North Side as typical examples. "We feel," she explained, "that where the Negro meets the economic and educational levels of his fellow white citizens he should find no discrimination as to his choice of residence in a community, it meets with the widespread approval of Negroes.

5-6-44

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The Central Christian Advocate

New Orleans, La. 12-14-44

Participants in the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the World's Young Women's Christian Association at the Washington Cathedral Sunday, November 19. (READING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) *Bishop Angus Dun, bishop of Washington; Miss Dorothy Maynor, the first woman soloist, white or Negro, to appear in the Cathedral; Dr. Robert Moten Williams, pastor of Asbury Church, Washington, D. C., who represented the Negro clergy of the country on the program. Dr. and Mrs. Robert Moten Williams and Miss Maynor were the guests of Lord and Lady Halifax at the British Embassy after the services at the Cathedral*

Girl Reserves Conference Set

Advertiser-Montgomery
3-23-44 Ala.

Advisers to Meet On March 25-26

The Alabama State Girl Reserves and Advisers Conference will meet in its sixth annual session at the Alabama State Teachers College, March 25-26. The 1944 conference theme, "Building Tomorrow's World," will be developed in four areas: Problems of Social Concern; Personal Relations—Recreation; Religion and Health. Specialist in each of the above major interests will direct the divisional meeting.

Miss Irene Harris, executive secretary of the Phyllis Wheatley Branch Y.W.C.A., Atlanta, Ga., will give the adults technique in understanding the personality of the adolescent girl.

Mrs. S. D. Taylor, Girl Reserves secretary of the local Y.W.C.A. will give the adults a broader view of the Y.W.C.A., its characteristics and philosophy and their relations to the needs of the girls. 3-23-44

Miss Leta Golpin, division of community, Y.W.C.A., and Girl Reserve secretary of National Board, New York, N. Y., will be special consultant for the conference and will work directly with the conference planning committee and adult volunteer leaders.

The discussion groups will be under the leadership of the following persons: F. A. DeCosta, Juvenile Delinquency; Mrs. Emma P. Howard, "Recreation an Important Factor in Building;" Miss Quintella Black, "Health, an Aid to Beauty;" Mrs. Beatine De Costa, "The Person I Need to Be in the World I Want to Live In;" Rev. F. E. Church, "How to Practice Religious Values in Everyday Life;" Miss Juliette Hawkins, "Socio-Economic Problems of the Post War World."

The following leaders will direct the interest groups: Prof. William Fletcher, painting; Mrs. Mabel Edwards, music; Mrs. Camilla Hester, dancing, and Mrs. Violette Blake, dramatics.

Girl Reserves and advisers throughout the State of Alabama will be in attendance. Miss Dorothy V. Fortson, chairman of the Conference Planning Committee, will direct the entire conference. Persons interested in listening to any of the above named discussions are invited to come.

Loop Y. W. C. A. to Hold Interracial Program Tea Today

Tribune-Chicago, Ill.
3-5-44

An interracial tea at 3 o'clock this afternoon at the Loop center Y. W. C. A., 59 E. Monroe st., will bring as guests Chicago business women of widely divergent races and creeds, but tied together by their common "white collar girl" status. The Y. W.'s Loop center business and professional department committee, headed by Miss Frances Jacobson, is the hostess group, and actively assisting in plans for the party are representatives of the four clubs of business girls which meet at the center.

Miss Beverly Boyd of Oak Park has arranged the program, which will consist of songs and instrumental music, dance demonstrations, and a dramatic skit. Miss Harriet Hindelwicz is in charge of decorations, and Miss Adele Grosscup, refreshments. The invitation chairman, Miss Charlotte Schmidt, has included on her guest list offices where Japanese-American and Negro girls work side by side with white girls.

Y. W. C. A. TO DISCUSS NEGROES' PROBLEMS

Times-New York, N. Y.

Research Report to Be Taken Up at General Convention

4-25-44

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., April 24—Interracial committees to bridge the gap between Negros and white persons and full civil rights for Negroes were advocated here today by a delegatie to the Eastern regional conference of the Young Women's Christian Association. The delegate was Miss Myra Smith of New York, chief executive of the research department of the national board.

Miss Smith presented to 700 delegates a report on her findings in a study of the Negro problem and recommendations for steps "toward a common goal to solve it." The report will be discussed later at a general convention of the Y. W. C. A. 4-25-44

"We must try to meet the gathering tension between races and lessen that tension," Miss Smith declared. "To do this, the Negro must be included in the stream of life. We urge that our attitudes and beliefs be carried into other community organizations, churches, unions and organizations for the advancement of the Negro."

She objected to segregation of Negroes in theatres and advocated wiping out borders for Negro settlements in cities, naming New York's Harlem and this resort's section known as the North Side.

"We feel," she explained, "that where the Negro needs the economic and educational levels of his fellow white citizens that he should find no discrimination as to his choice of residence in a community."

Germantown Y Ends Biased Pool Policy

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
1-1-44

Letter Threatening Court Action Ignored by White Board

FACILITIES OPENED TO ALL MEMBERS

Board Says Decision Reached after Year of "Careful Thinking"

PHILADELPHIA

The ban on colored girls using the swimming pool at the Germantown YWCA, 5820 Germantown Avenue, was lifted Tuesday at a meeting of the board of directors.

While action of the board set a precedent, it was not unexpected in view of the fact that a membership meeting the week before went on record as favoring the move.

Facilities Open to All

No mention of the swimming pool question, brought out into the open two months ago by Walter M. S. Tresville, was contained in a statement issued by Mrs. Arthur U. Crosby, white, president of the Y board, and Mrs. Harry Duplessis, chairman of the colored branch's committee of management.

The statement simply said the board "unanimously voted that all facilities of the association be open to all groups of members and other organized groups with which the YWCA is accustomed to work."

Threatened Court Action

Tresville, who lives at 6502 Musgrave Avenue, threatened to go into court if he obtained no satisfaction when his daughter, MaChere, 18-year-old senior at Germantown High School, was barred from joining the school swimming club because she could not swim at the YWCA where the other members of the organization did under supervision.

It was said that the board of education was ready to discontinue use of the Y pool if the final decision had been otherwise. Tresville's contention was that his daughter was due all the privileges accorded the other pupils of the school. 1-1-44

Complaint Ignored

The Y statement ignored Tresville's complaint, pointing out "this decision (to open facilities to everybody) was reached after a year of careful thinking and discussion by various sections of the membership and with the recognition of the fact that there is still minority opposition."

The statement added that "the branch (colored unit at 6128 Germantown Avenue) by its advice and encouragement, has co-operated with every step of this procedure."

Committee Of Twenty-Two White And Negro Women Compile Survey On Interracial Program In YWCA

Age-New York 12, N. Y.
1-22-44

A Commission appointed late in 1942 to study Negro-white relations within the local Young Women's Christian Associations of the United States, turned in Wednesday the findings of a twelve- month study to the National Board of the Y. W. C. A., now in full session at 600 Lexington avenue, New York City.

Mrs. William L. Tucker, of Princeton, New Jersey, was chairman of the Commission, which included twenty-two white and Negro women from various parts of the country. The study was conducted by two staff members of the National Board, Miss Juliet O. Bell, of Aiken, South Carolina, and Mrs. Helen J. Wilkins, of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The object of the study was to see how far and by what means local Y. W. C. A.'s have been able within the American scene, to live up to the organization's Christian ideal and its goal of an all-inclusive fellowship of women and girls.

The net result of the findings, which will shortly be issued in pamphlet form, are summed up in two statements of local general secretaries quoted in the study:

"The best way to have interracial democracy is to practice it."

"The least desirable means are those which treat interracial relationships as if they were 'race problems' and as though they were theoretical and abstract."

The findings of the study are based partly on two questionnaires, one statistical and one descriptive of local practices, and partly on visits made by the interracial team to nine cities, including Hartford, Conn.; Mnneapolis, Minn.; St. Paul, Minn.; Denver, Col.; Houston, Texas; St. Louis Mo.; Alton, Ill.; Atlanta, Ga. and Charlotte, N. C.

Of the 417 Y. W. C. A.'s of the U. S. A., 250 or 60 per cent participated in the study. Of these, 81 are in the Eastern, 92 in the Central, 42 in the Southern and 35 in the Western regions. Not only city but also small town and rural Y. W. C. A.'s cooperated. 1-22-44

The special "channels of integration", as the study calls them, within the Y. W. C. A.'s today, are the Interracial Committee and the Negro branch, almost all Associations having abandoned the various cumbrous devices which had been tried since the 1890's, when Negroes first joined this organization. In some Associations as well as the National Board, Negro women now work across racial lines, serving the total constituency as do white women. The Inter-racial Committee which is a program as well as an administrative body, is still, however, in common use as a means of bringing Negroes into the main stream of Association life.

The study reports that there are today 74 Negro branches of the Y. W. C. A., which inevitably raises the question: If the Y. W. C. A. believes in an inclusive fellowship, why this racial segregation?

"The most potent answer to that question," says the study, "is that in order to integrate, you have to have people to be integrated, and the evidence indicates that to date the places where there are racial branches, have done the most effective job of bringing people of minority races into the Association."

The study concludes that the Negro branch has definite value, as long as it is regarded as a means to an end, not an end in itself.

As far as failure to achieve interracial inclusiveness is concerned, the study finds that the local Y. W. C. A.'s are most vulnerable where they have income-producing facilities.

"It is where we have facilities, such as gymnasiums, pools, camps and residences that one part of the Association tends most frequently and most persistently to set up barriers against another," it states.

One explanation is that the Y. W. C. A. is both a service and a membership organization, its constituency being estimated at three million women and girls and its membership at half a million. In the first capacity it serves the general public, and local Y. W. C. A.'s consequently are often in the position of choosing between the organization's policy and their own operating budgets. 1-22-44

The study tells how some secretaries meet the adverse reaction to the use of a Y. W. C. A. swimming pool by Negroes. One reported: "The criticisms were listened to politely, general hygienic regulations for all users were explained, and no apologies offered." Another reported: "The adverse reaction subsided when the Y. W. C. A. did not let it become an issue."

The Negro groups which fit most easily into the general stream of Association life, according to the study, are school girls who form the majority and industrial workers. The least interracial group is that of home women.

ing in New York, are Mrs. Henry A. to move toward the integra- f Negro women and girls in Ingraham, president of th National Board, Brooklyn, N. Y., Mrs. study concludes with two William S. Bowen, Westfield, N. J., c recommendations to the Mrs. Allan Knight Chalmers, New al Board and thirty-five to York, Mrs. J. H. Chesnutt, Hot Associations. 1-22-44 Springs, Ark., Mrs. Henry E. Corner, ng the members of the Com- Baltimore, Md., Mrs. Donald P. power for an interracial movement The study n, many of whom are now Cottrell, New York, N. Y., Mrs. A. ing the National Board meet- Maurice Curtis, Paterson, N. J. Miss

The percentage of Negro staff and electoral members quoted by the study are from the reports of 317 local Y. W. C. A.'s to the National Board as of January, 1943. These show that, of 2,283 professional workers, 8.7 per cent were Negro, and of 162,782 electoral members, 12.2 per cent were Negro. In reporting its conclusions, the study states unequivocally: "The greatest strength in the Y. W. C. A. is its purpose . . . The significant ways." is derived from the spiritual disciplines which make the purpose a mainspring of action. Where the ideal purpose is used, both as the ideal and as a practical plumb line for mission, and as a practical plumb line for the gauging next steps, the Association

Marion Cuthbert, New York, N. Y., Miss Lois Diehl, Pittsburgh, Pa., Mrs. Harrison S. Elliott, general secretary of the National Board, New York, N. Y., Mrs. Eugene Ross McCarthy, St. Louis, Mo., Miss Harriet Pickens, New York, N. Y., Miss Elisabeth Rogers, Newark, N. J., and others.

Censures Bilbo, Y Sec'y Fired

Daily World-Atlanta, Ga
7-6-44

WASHINGTON,—(ANP)—Two and a half months ago, Miss Mary Emerine, industrial secretary of the white K. Street YWCA here, wrote a letter to Senator Bilbo censuring him for his anti-Negro blasts. Bilbo replied, asserting that she should be fired from her job. The senator's letter was published in the Washington Post.

This week it was revealed that Miss Emerine's connection with the YWCA has been ended.

Inquiries by ANY brought the information that Miss Emerine had resigned when the executive board of the branch refused to renew her contract and moved to investigate her "private life."

Unconfirmed were rumors that the executive board disapproved of Miss Emerine's liberal views and connections which she maintained with the United Federal Workers of America (CIO).

Although no member of the executive board would discuss Miss Emerine's exchange of correspondence with Sen. Bilbo, it was learned that a general understanding exists whereby YWCA officials are expected, when writing to public officials, to do so as a private citizens, omitting any mention of their YWCA connection.

7-6-44

St. Louis YWCA Has Modern 3-Story Home

Afro American — Baltimore, Md.
3-11-44

By B. M. PHILLIPS

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The Phyllis Wheatley Branch of the YWCA is meeting a need in this city and doing a good job of serving community interests, as witness the fact that 511 different groups used the building last year.

It is now located at 2709 Locust Street, the old Woman's Christian Home (white) which it purchased for $50,000 in 1941.

Has Modern Building

The three-story, modern brick edifice was renovated at a cost of $25,000 and occupied in October, 1941. The branch was formerly located at Garrison and Lucas Streets, a site now occupied by the USO.

The building has facilities for housing 90 women and during 1943 accommodated 102 permanent guests and 1,352 transients. In addition, its room registry department placed 817 persons in homes. Miss Minrose White is house director.

Besides residence rooms, the building boasts a modern library, several sitting and conference rooms, a large social hall, reception room, dining hall, cafeteria and kitchen, bathrooms and toilets on each floor, and offices for the executives.

3-11-44

Mrs. Scott Head

Mrs. Anna Lee Scott is branch executive. Other staff members are: Mrs. Mary Broussard, business and industrial secretary; Mrs. Marge Donaldson, Younger Girls' Secretary;

Mrs. Ethel Bowles, wartime recreation secretary; Mrs. Pearl Kittrell, food service director; Miss Alleda Ward, office secretary; Miss Adelaide Calhoun, and Miss Isabelle Allen, program clerks; Mrs. Bessie Anderson, night clerk and Mrs. May Howell, housekeeper.

Served 3,350 Women

Some idea of how extensive the Y's program and how useful it is to the community may be gleaned from the following excerpts from the branch's annual report made last week.

During 1943, 3,350 young women between the ages of 18 and 40 attended activities sponsored by the business and industrial departments; 10,792 girls took part in younger girls' clubs; 293 attended Camp Derricotte during the summer under the leadership of 36 volunteer counsellors.

Some 3,404 persons participated in health and recreation programs, including night games, body-building and reducing classes, volley ball, basketball and swimming.

During the past year, 25,853 meals were served by the cafeteria and 117 groups were accommodated for special luncheons and dinners.

3-11-44

The Friendly Hour, now in its third year, was attended by 3,136 persons and 1,576 attended the monthly noonday forums conducted by the public affairs committee.

Other activities held under YW sponsorship are summarized as follows:

Four hundred and twelve girls and women attended the Municipal Opera last summer; 95 women completed the pre-employment course held in conjunction with the board of education; 227 persons enrolled in first-aid classes;

Seventy-three volunteers answered the call for work with the War Chest Campaign; over 300 books were collected for Victory Book Parade, and 312 girls enrolled in the summer workshop program.

Named Director

Daily World—Atlanta, Ga.
7-27-44

MISS ELIZABETH ELAINE LEMON

The National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association announces the appointment of Miss Elizabeth Elaine Lemon as director of Negro work at the USO club which it operates at Enterprise Highway. Miss Lamon succeed Mrs. Ophelia Ligon who will direct Negro activities at the USO club in Elkton, Maryland. Miss Lemon holds a B. S. degree in English and Social Studies from Ball State Teachers College in Indiana, and an M. A. from Teachers College, Columbia University in New York City.

Negro YWCA Opens Recreation Center

Times-Roanoke, Va.

An extension Recreation Center, located next to the Phyllis Wheatley Branch YWCA, was formally opened last night with the committee of management acting as hosts to the general membership and visitors in open house.

Each night this week open house activities have been arranged by the branch YWCA to feature the opening of the extension center. Tonight at 7:30, the health education committee will entertain the canteen unit, the health guild and other health groups. Wednesday at the same hour, the business and professional department will sponsor a supper meeting. Thursday evening, the industrial department will present an evening of planned recreation and Friday night will be observed as Youth Night for the Girl Reserves and members of the Junior Red Cross units.

5-9-44

The center is located in the vacated St. John's Methodist church and has been attractively decorated and reconditioned for a recreation center. Officials of the branch YWCA explained that facilities in the branch could not accommodate all the persons attending functions there and that the new center provided the much-needed room. The new site has been equipped with a juke box, colored summer furniture and renovated to suit recreation needs.

5-9-44

The public is invited to attend the programs this week.